FREE INDIA

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RECEIVED
14 MAY 1974

Sitar-E-Mohabbat

One has to visit Tashkent and other Central Asian cities to see for oneself the tremendous popularity which Indian music enjoys among the common people of all age groups. Indian songs are also rendered by several well-known Uzbek singers. Among the latter may be mentioned the mames of Tamara Khanum, People's Artist of the USSR, Batir Zaki-

(Contd. on Second cover)

Right :

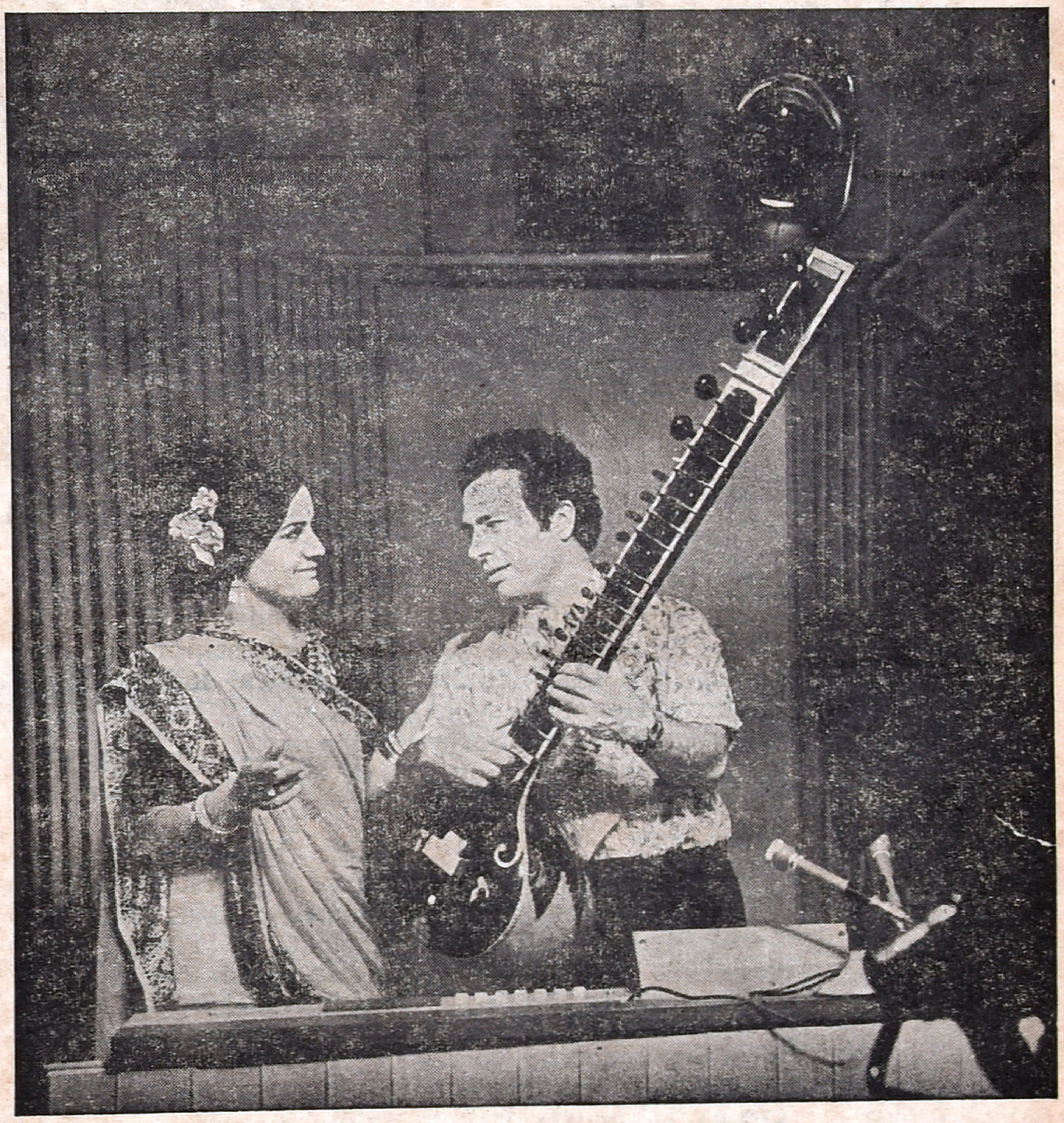
Mohabbat Shamayeva and Ilias Malayev, Uzbek artistes, getting ready for the concert.

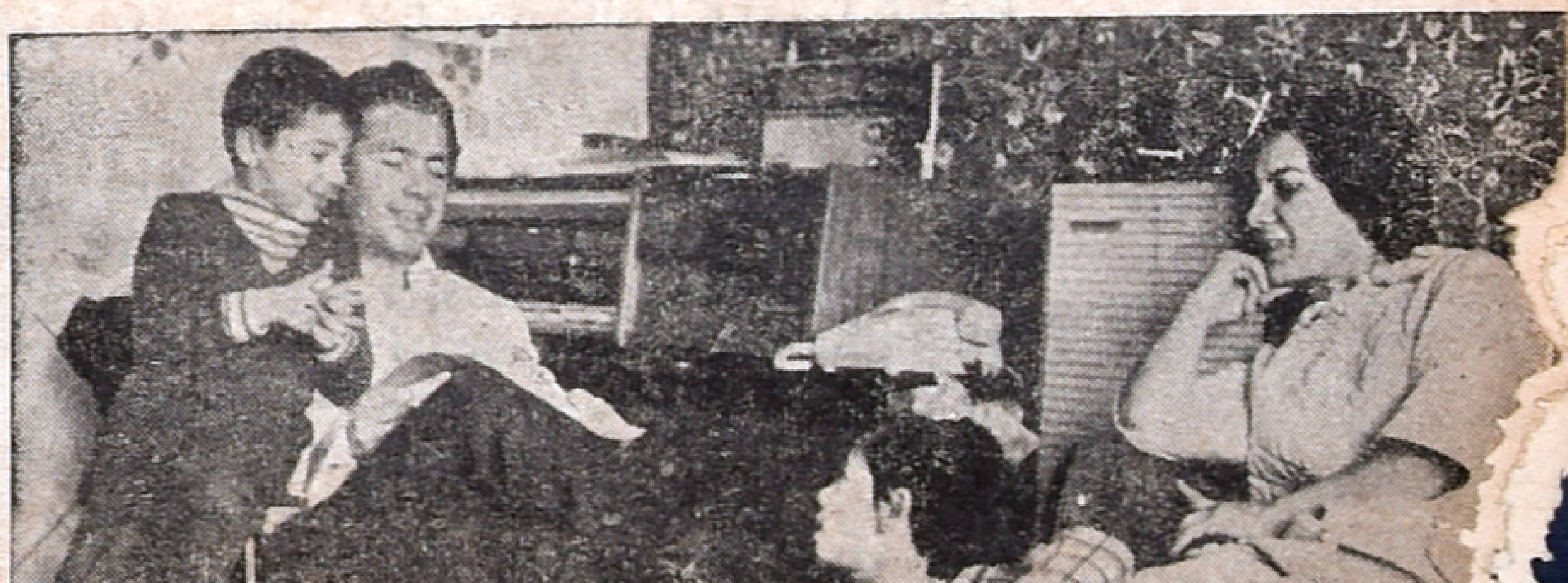
Bottom Right:

When all members of the family are together.

Bottom Left:

A TV performance given by Ilias and Mohabbat.





SOUTH INDIA'S FINEST PICTORIAL WEEKLY

Raj and Nargis, children of the Uzbek artistes.

From 1st Cover

rov, People's Artist of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic, has sister Louiza Zakirova, Honoured Artist of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic and, Ilias Malayev and Mohabbat Shamayeva.

Ilias was born in 1936 in the town of Merv in the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic. Even as a child, Ilias played practically every folk stringed instrument that could be found around. It was not surprising that he was invited to the Uzbek Philharmonic Ensemble at the age of 14.

The next phase in the career of Ilias began when he became a solocist of the Uzbek Variety Orchestra, where he played on nearly all Central Asian stringed instruments. While performing at hundreds of concerts, Ilias did not forget his professional studies. Several years ago, he graduated, from the Baku State Conservatoire. He is famous not only as an instrumentalist but also as a singer. His programme also includes "sitar" recitals which help popularise this classical Indian instrument.

It was in 1964 when a friend from India presented a "sitar" to the Uzbek artist. Ilias had seen it before only in films. Affectionately hugging the instrument, he assured his Indian friend that he did not intend keeping it just as a souvenir decorating his drawing room. And he fulfilled his promise. Within a couple of years, he was playing on the "sitar" in public. In this venture, he also got help and inspiration from his charming wife Mohabbat who, like him, is a great admirer of Indian music. Ilias and Mohabbat have been happily married for over eight years. Their first meeting was just accidental. The uncle of Mohabbat had brought Ilias to his niece's house with the idea of seeking the artist's guidance for her musical career. Ilias was at once impressed by Mohabat's musical talent. He began to train her. Soon, she was accepted by the Uzbek Radio and Television as a solo singer and by now her voice is well known all over the country. At the young age of 24, Mohabbat became the Honoured Artist of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic and recently a film was made about her creative career.

Mohabbat Shamayeva visited India in 1967 as a member of an Uzbek cultural delegation. The members of the delegation participated in the "Month of Uzbek Litrature and Culture" observed in India on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the October Revolution.

Of late, Ilias has started taking interest in the classical Indian music. He rates it very highly and says it is interesting though somewhat complicated. He dreams of going to India specially for its music.

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No Justification For The Railway Strike Now

BY C. S. KHOSLA

The two-week negotiations between the Ministry of Railways and the National Coordination Committee of Railwaymen have resulted in substantial gains to railway employees. Beginning with a preliminary round with the Member Staff Railway Board on April 15, the negotiations were handled by Mr. Mohd. Shafi Qureshi, Deputy Minister for Railways, with occasional interventions by Mr. L. N. Mishra, the Minister. Practically all the way, important concessions have been made, which will benefit the vast majority of railwaymen. True, on some points agreement has not been reached or the National Coordination Committee feels that the concessions do not go far enough, which is but to be expected in any hard bargaining between Government and the unions, the value of the financial benefits and improvement in service conditions should not be lost in the mood of anger which has been raised in some quarters by the arrest of Mr. Fernandes, the convener of the Coordination Committee and some other union officials for inciting railway workers to violence and for acts of intimidation. On two issues at least, decasualisation and victimisation, even Mr. Fernandes has conceded that some understanding was reached. Accepting a recommendation of the Miabhoy Tribunal, which was appointed by Government as an ad hoc measure to go into some of the grievances which had been raised by the recognised unions under the Permanent Negotiation Machinery, the Ministry has decided that in certain establishments, such as workshops, loco sheds and carriage and wagon depots, casual labour will not be employed on works of a regular and continuous nature. As a result of this decision a very large number of daily wage workers will be taken on the regular payroll, with all the attendant benefits. namely, earned leave, housing, medical and educational assistance.

The stand of the Railway Ministry that employment of casual wokers cannot be completely abolished will be appreciated in the light of the working conditions in some departments. For instance, there is large scale absenteeism among the track maintenance staff during the harvesting and marriage season and casual hands in considerable numbers have to be employed for short periods to fill up vacancies. It would not be desirable to burden the exchequer with a large permanent work force to meet such eventualities, but it is desirable that casual labour should not be employed indiscriminately. The Ministry of Railways have accepted this and agreed to appoint a cadre review committee to ensure that the necessity to employ casual labour is reduced gradually.

Victimisation is a much abused term and means different things to different people. The unions regard any kind of disciplinary action within the rules such as transfers, stoppage of increments for departmental irregularities or refusal of leave as victimisation. They have no qualms about taking advantage of the rule that a union official will not be transferred without advance intimation to the union to enable it to make alternative arrangements for carrying on the union work and enlist employees under investigation or served with a charge sheet to executive office to protect them against posting to another place. In the circumstances. there is little likelihood of the railway administration and the unions agreeing in toto on what is a case of victimisation.

So long as the unions continue to hold meetings to incite employees to go on strike, the railway administration would be justified in taking counter-measures and some of these may be removing certain employees from position of vantage from where they can inflict damage on the morale of loyal workers or damage sensitive equipment to disrupt services. So while the situation regarding victimisation will remain fluid, the dialogue on the subject is not closed. The Ministry has agreed to review cases of victimisation, barring employees charged with intimidation and violence.

On the subject of the regulation of the hours of work, Mr. Fernandes has tried to confuse the issue by bringing in the case of running staff. Their case has been recently decided when the Railway Ministry agreed in principle to limit their hours of running duty to ten hours at a stretch. This has already been achieved in respect of drivers and firemen working Mail and Express trains and a target date has to be set for running staff working on passenger and goods trains in consultation with the All India Loco Running Staff Association.

The acceptance of the recommendation of the Miabhoy Tribunal in respect of limiting hours of work to eight daily and forty-eight weekly will benefit all continuous and essentially intermittent workers. The contention of the National Coordination Committee that overtime should be computed on total hours of work in a day and not on a fortnightly basis is not only impracticable, but also unnecessary, Overtime is paid as compensation for fatigue, the effect of which is felt if a man has to work beyond his schedule of duty over a number of days and not once in a way. As a result of the acceptance of this recommendation, many railwaymen will earn a larger quantum of overtime wage and a considerable number of new jobs are likely to be created.

The common man today is hit most by spiralling prices and shortages. Railwaymen, along-with other Government employees, have benefited financially from the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. Further improvement was made in the

(Contd. on page 12)

Wisdom Drives The Evils

1. How long should I follow?
How long should I pursue?
O Peace! My heart do allow
To attain the love shown to few.

2. I know its splendour and glow
Its pleasure and its taste
It calmly to the hearts show
How its faithful lives hold fast.

3. If I be with humble hopes
The voice of wisdom I'd hear
Though I be on rugged slopes
I'll not the dark depths fear.

4. Peace is the spiritual food of mind
That teaches all to show love
But the hate and greed of the unkind
Are the Satan's evil ways below.

—By Dr. E. GILBERT

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

Truly as Tulsidas said: 'Even though there never is silver in mother o'pearl nor water in the sunbeams, while the illusion of silver in the shining shell or that of water in the beam lasts, no power on earth can shake the deluded man free from the spell.'

ASOKA SCENTED BETELNUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY May 12, 1974.

P.M.'s "No" To Rail Men

The railway men are on strike. They have been able to paralyse traffic. But people are not at all affected so far. They have learnt to live with it.

The Prime Minister has said "no" to the absurd "parity and bonus" demands. She has said: "We are concerned about the interests of the railway workers; but we have to be more concerned about the larger interests of the country."

Last year, she reminded the nation, there were far more strikes than ever before. Government negotiated on them and in many cases gave what was asked. "Did that create an atmosphere of cooperation, of greater production...?" she asked.

Any reasonable opposition group in Parliament must be satisfied with the stand taken by the Prime Minister. But the opposition in our country has always been irresponsible, waiting for political opportunities to fish in troubled waters.

One of the main contributing factors to the present economic crisis resulting out of inflation is the increased wages without adequate increase in production. The Prime Minister has acknowledged the past "mistakes" and has affirmed that there was no reason to repeat them and she would certainly try to correct them.

Engineers, Physicians Blend Skills To Invest Medical Devices

Jerry Cleveland, a 20-year-old piano student, plays classical musical compositions in Winchester, Virginia, using an electronic device for his missing right hand and forearm.

Dr. Lowell W. Rogers, 27, a resident in pathology at Johns Hopkins University Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, works with complex medical instruments though his amputated left hand is replaced by the same kind of electronic device.

Cleveland and Dr. Rogers are among the growing number of persons who are able, despite severe handicaps, to live normal lives and pursue their chosen occupations thanks to a relatively new medical speciality called biomedical engineering.

It is the blending of medicine and engineering: Physicians and engineers combine their professional skills to build medical instruments for diognosis and prevention of diseases and for the treatment and restoration of patients.

One of the largest biomedical engineering laboratories and workshops is near Washington, D. C., at the headquarters of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) a U. S. government agency devoted to health research.

More than 100 U S. universities offer courses in biomedical engineering, and more than 3,000 private U. S. manufac uring organisations operate bi medical engineering research labo atories.

A simple example of a product of biomedical engineering research from a commercial laboratory is an inexpensive thermometer. It has the advantage over the standard glass or plastic variety in that it is unbreakable, cannot transmit germs between patients, is easy to use and read, need not be shaken down, and requires only 30 seconds to register.

The new thermometer is a thin strip of plastic coated aluminium printed with numbers from 96 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit (36 to 40 degrees centigrade).

Next to every number is a row of five dots, each representing a gradation of two-tenths of a degree. Each dot contains a slightly different chemical composition, which turns blue at a precise temperature. When the thermometer is placed in the mouth for 30 seconds, the dots turn blue progressively until the person's temperature is reached. The flexible thermometer, which costs only a few pennies, can be discarded after only one use making it more sanitary than reusable models. In accuracy it excels glass thermometers.

Experiments in biomedical engineering laboratories working with NIH grants show that pictures of the inside of the human body can be obtained by bombarding the patient with harmless sound waves beyond the range of human hearing.

ELECTRONIC HAND —This young American physician works with his electronically controlled artificial left hand almost as well as if he had his normal hand. He is Dr. Lowell W. Rogers, 27, a pathology resident at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, who wears his hand's control unit at his waist as he works in the laboratory. Tiny wires pick up electrical impulses from his arm muscles to activate the hand.

Such "ultrasound" bouncing off internal organs can produce images on a screen that help physicians diagnose heart disease, cancer, and other illnesses. Ultrasonic "camera" built in these laboratories can see body parts and conditions not visible with conventional X-rays.

The sound images can be made three dimensional, and they can show the body parts in motion. No chemicals need be injected into organs to create contrast, and there is no radiation hazard, as with X- ays

Developers at the Stanford Research Institute, Menlo Park, Calif rnia, foresee use of such acoustic cameras to examine human fetuses inside the womb, the interior of the living brain, and the inner walls of diseased arteries.

A portable electrocardiograph (EKG) — a machine which records the tiny electrical impulses generated by the beating heart — for home use was recently tested at NIH.

This machine is expected to become especially useful for detecting changes in the heart beats of patients whose natural heart beat controls are impaired by disease and who wear battery or nuclear-powered pace-makers to regulate their heart rhythm.

If the patient suspects any heart rhythm abnormality he can telephone the clinic, connect the machine to the telephone and place his palms on a pair of electrodes. The miniature EKG unit will transmit a record of the patient's heart activity over the phone to a computer, which will analyse the reading. If any serious abnormalities are detected, a physician can be summoned.

Researchers working at the University of Chicago on a grant from NIH have developed a small disposable artificial kidney-also called a dialyzer — which cleanses the blood when a patient's own kidneys cannot do so because of disease. The new device can easily and inexpensively be used at home without interfering with the patient's mobility or normal activities.

Among the most spectacular developments of biomedical engineers are "heart assist devices" first used on patients by Dr. Michael E. D Bakey at Baylor University in Houston, Texas. These devices temporarily take over some of the blood pumping action, and thus lighten the work load for an ailing heart while it recuperates following surgery. Such devices, some of which are fully or partially implantable into the patient's chest, are helping restore many patients to good health so that they can resume normal living.

Such man-made organs would have the advantage over organs transplanted from deceased persons in that the artificial ones could be available at all times in every major medical centre in sizes and types to fill the requirements of any patient who might need them.

That would indeed be the ultimate achievement for the new medical speciality of biomedical engineering.

Long ago, a foreign expert reported that Indian railways should concentrate on goods traffic rather than on uneconomic passenger traffic. He has even suggested running of passenger trains at "inconvenient hours" with a view to dissuading passengers.

Here is an opportunity to introduce reforms in the railway administration to serve the peculiar demands of a growing economy.

DOESN'T SHE KNOW?

Ida, of Pietermaritzburg, wanted to know what sort of work her employer did. "He's a lawyer," explained his wife, adding: 'Don't you know what a lawyer is?"

"Oh, yes," replied Ida, "I know a lawyer; you say please and he says five pounds."

City Train Timings

(During Normal Time)

MADRAS CENTRAL

	Dep.	Arr.
Howrah Janata	8-40	19-15
Tatanagar Exp.	13-35	14-10
Howrah Mail	20-55	5-05
Circars Exp.	22-20	6-40
New Delhi Exp.	8-25	17-45
Hyderabad Exp.	12-50	10-15
Delhi Janata	14-00	15-55
New Delhi-Air-conditioned/Grand Trunk Express*	19-45	10-55
Dadar Express	9-50	17-15
Bombay Janata	13-40	14-05
Bombay Mail	21-50	5-15
Tirupati Exp.	7-15	21-30
Brindavan Exp.	8-10	19-05
Bangalore Exp.	14-25	13-25
Bangalore Mail	21-35	5-40
West Coast Exp.	12-25	14-45
Kerala Express	16-25	9-25
Mangalore Mail	20-20	7-00
Nilagiri Exp.	20-00	7-25
Cochin Mail	19-20	6-10
Gudur Pass.	8-45	22-50
Gudur Pass. (via Arkonam)	—	22-00
Vijayawada Pass.	15-20	12-40
Vijayawada Parcel Passenger	23-45	4-15
Raichur Pass.	9-25	19-55
Tirupati Pass.	17-00	9-45
Bangalore Pass.	6-05	21-00
Jolarpettai Pass.	11-20	14-25
Arkonam Pass.	18-10	—
Olavkot Parcel Passenger	21-25	6-10

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Cholan Express	9-50	16-25
VirudunagarJanata	15-20	7-45
Rameswaram Exp.	19-30	8-05
Tiruchi Pass	6-45	
Nagore Fast Pass.	15-55	12-05
Trivandrum Pass.	21-20	5-20
Madurai Parcel Passenger	22-25	4-50
Shencottah Pass.	—	21-15

CHORD LINE)

Trivandrum Exp.	8--10	18 10
Kanyakumari Exp.	18-15	8-35
Trivandrum Mail	19-00	7-15
Pandyan Exp	20-10	6-40
RockFort Express	22-00	5-40
Rameswaram Passenger	11-00	15-50
MADRAS BEACH		9-55
Chingleput Pass.*	17-07	10-40
Kancheepuram Passenger*	17-33	9-55
Kancheepuram Passenger	18-12	9-13

*Will run on all days except on Sundays.

Sunday service will be observed only on Madras Beach-Tambaram Electrified suburban section,

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Inflation And the Fifth Plan

By K. K. SHAH, Governor of Tamil Nadu.

The main question before us Seminar on 'Inflation and Fifth Five Year Plan', is: Can the Fifth Five Year Plan undo the mischief that hyper inflation has done during the last three plan periods? Can it consistently with objectives of democratic socialism ensure national growth so that poverty and unemployment can be eliminated, evil effects of hyper inflation be contained and prices can be stabilised? A number of experts have expressed different opinions. The Planning Commission takes another view. Some of those who were in the Planning Commission, especially, Mr. Minhas, are very sore about the way the Planning Commision looks at the Fifth Five Year Plan. It is difficult for even an expert to bring about very close reconciliation but a dispassionate analysis can indicate surer ways and means to have an ideal Fifth Plan. To me the best way to approach the Fifth Five Year Plan is to examine the Fourth Five Year Plan including the annual Plans and find out what lessons they offer.

DIFFICULT START

It has to be conceded that Inflation has been with us since we started planning. What has plagued us is that the price rise has been much steeper because production has not kept pace with investment. The First Plan started in difficult circumstances. The drought necessitated import of aid wheat. The Korean war brought about a boom in prices. But planning was wise. It was modest. It was based on a realistic assessment of our resources and was able to meet the requirements of our economy. It was also wisely executed. It must be remembered that unless production is stepped up and delays are avoided, the expected results cannot be had. Unless wages are related to productivity and the administration is prepared to cut down unnecessary delays and expedite execution of plan projects, however wise the plan might be, it will fail. Luckily these two factors were in our favour. The first plan raised the national income by 18.4%even though we had planned only for 11 and brought about a fall of 3.7 in the price level.

NO CALCULATED RISK

Probably these unexpected results made us take risks. Unluckily they did not turn out to be calculated risks. It is true that the Second Plan enunciated the broad philosophy of planning and laid down the objectives, but we neither provided for the inbuilt weaknesses nor did we build a self-reliant base ensuring growth with stability. Three steel plants were simultaneously initiated from the greenfield stage and the work on a heavy machine building plant, which later on came to be known as Heavy Engineering Corporation, was started. As will be pointed out later on, even these could not have brought about imbalances, endangering all subsequent Plans, if only precautions had been taken to cut down the period of gestation and to orient production suited to meet the inflationary tendencies We do not realise that the gestation period of 8 to 9 years practically eats away the capital before a project goes into production. Not only the interest charges become equivalent to the capital during that period but inflation is engendered without corresponding increase in production.

EFFICIENCY IN EXECUTION

Nobody doubts the necessity of basic industries but the unproductive period of basic industries or the heavy outlay on basic industries must be matched by quicker and higher production at least in other ancillary sectors. It was unfortunate that the Chinese aggression scuttled the Third Plan and created such a crisis that even now we have not been able to recover from it. Thereafter the period has been a period of annual plans and the Fourth Plan. As I pointed out earlier, we must realise from this experience that even with the mistakes committed, if implementation was efficient, we would have gained. Even a bad plan wisely and efficiently executed can yield results; but a good plan not properly executed can create havoc. The administrative machinery and mechanism both failed us. We have Five Year Plans, but we have no Five Year Plans either for raw materials or for imports of spare parts. The assessment of requirements of imports and raw materials were based upon calculations which totally went wrong. Industrial projects took much longer than was contemplated by the Plan. Fertilizer and steel projects took 7 years to complete and after completion the teething period added considerably to the period of gestation. Planning which does not take into consideration these unhealthy developments gives an impression of planning of outlay on investment and expenditure, but does not ensure achievement of physical targets and actual performance.

HARD TASK MASTER

Our objectives, namely, absence of concentration of economic power, equality of opportunity which was desirable, hampered the objective of rapid industrial growth for want of cooperation from organised labour, and administrative services. The social objectives could not be made compatible with economic objectives on account of bad execution and non-co-operation of the elements on whose strength the economic objectives were planned Planning also failed to provide inbuilt safeguards for securing the co-operation of the services and labour. Economics is a hard task master and there is no room for wishful thinking.

In the light of the defects disclosed by the Second, Third and the Fourth Five Year Plans, the questions that should be raised are: Can the Fifth Five Year Plan take advantage of the previous outlays by maximising production of the installed capacity and by generating resources from outlays of the previous plan? If the Public sector undertakings, which have luckily started turning the corner can be made to wipe out losses and yield a reasonable return of 9 % and if the surplus installed capacity is utilised to the maximum advantage, national growth of more than 3% can be achieved without any further outlay. Even from employment point of view, the additional resources generated in this way can be utilised in further investmen which can provide employment.

MINI PROJECTS VITAL

It will therefore be wise for the Fifth Plan to assess the requirements of raw materials, personnel, administrative efficiency and good labour relationship and to provide necessary resources and machinery to meet them The approach to the Fifth Plan, namely, minimum subsistence level for the masses and self-reliancy, can be practical if priorities are fixed. Growth can be made compatible with removal of grosser forms of poverty We have provided a reasonable outlay on basic industry. Let us utilise that before thinking of making further long term investments. There is no room now for investment of heavier capital with a long period of gestation. We have to care for growth-yielding results and consumption goods. For example, instead of having huge irrigation dams which take years and which require a net work of distribution channels, let us have check dams, provide for minor irrigation works, and

(Contd. on page 10)

THE FAMOUS ASTROLOGER

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FUN AND LAUGHTER

ENCORE!

The wealthy man had cracked a rib, and a slight operation was necessary. He didn't trust the surgeon in his small home town, so he engaged a famous London specialist.

Local doctors were excited at the prospect of a visit from a big noise, and their request for permission to watch the operation was granted.

The operation was successful. When the patient came out of the anaesthetic he found himself smothered in bandages. He summoned the nurse.

"What's all this?" he demanded.

"Well, sir, it was such a beautiful operation, and the applause was so tremendous that Sir Hugo took out your appendix as an encore."

SO LUCKY

A kindly old general, an ardent horseman, used to visit the hospital every Sunday.

"What's your trouble?" he asked a junior officer patient one day.

"Fell off my motor-bike, sir," replied the subaltern.

"You would do much better," observed the general, "to sell the noisy, smelly thing and get a good pony. Then you wouldn't be wasting time in hospital."

He turned to the occupant of the next bed.

"Well, and what's the matter with you?"

"Fell off my horse, sir!"

* * *

DIDN'T WANT MUCH

Granny was tucking her four-year-old grandson up for the night.

"Now, dearie!" she cooed, "ready for your bed time story?"

"Not to-night, thank you, granny," he replied politely.

"Shall I sing you to sleep?"

"I'd rather not."

"Then what shell I do?"

"Granny," said the youngster hopefully, "s'pose you take a walk and let me get some sleep?"

* * *

"Every day last week I heard a dog bark three times as I lay in bed at 11 a.m. I wonder what that was a sign of?"

Laziness, we should say.

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TRUE ENOUGH

Some visitors were inspecting a junior class in the school and things were going rather badly. When the teacher asked if any little girl could recite something, only one small hand shot up.

"That's a good girl, Betty," said teacher encouraging. "Now step out in front of the class. What can you say for us?"

"Nelson's Farewell to His Mother," replied Betty brightly.

"Splendid! Begin."

"Ta ta, mum!" said Betty dramatically, waving her hand in the air.

* * *

THE GREATER POWER

Trying to get a word-picture of Britain at war-work, the journalist was asking a few questions.

"You earn big wages now," he said to one man. "What are you doing with the money?"

"I give it to my wife," was the sad reply.

"But surely you keep some for yourself?"

"No; there's a law against it."

"What law is that?" asked the journalist, in surprise.

"My mother-in-law," was the still sadder reply.

* * *

IN DETAIL

It was the first time the Home Guard recruit had done night guard duty. His nervousness was increased by the knowledge that the Zone Commander was expected to visit the post. In consequence, when he heard footsteps approaching in the dark, he became flustered.

'Halt!" he shouted with a fine show of ferocity. "Who am I?"

He was told in some detail.

* * *

CONSOLATION

The weary-looking man stopped before a shop window which had been hired by the Humane Society. It the centre of the window was the picture of a large, furry animal with a woebegone expression on its face. Underneath was a placard: "I was skinned to provide a woman with fashionable furs."

For a moment the tired expression faded from the man's face.

"Poor old chap," he muttered "So was I."

* * *

A MEMENTO

One of Joh's best friends had died, so he called on the widow to express his sympathy.

"Jim and I were friends," he said. "Isn't there something I could have as a memento of him?"

She raised her velvety brown eyes, which a few seconds before had been wet with tears.

"How would I do?" she murmured.

JUST WONDERED

After much searching, the newly marrieds had managed to get a maid. Now the mistress was giving her a few hints on the job.

"And when you are waiting at table," she said presently, "you must always remember to serve from the left and remove the plates from the right. Is that clear?"

"Yes," replied the girl condescendingly: "you superstitious or something?"

* * *

HOW?

The bachelor's meal was over, and he rang for his butler.

"James," he said, "in my wardrobe there are —"

"Cigars, sir," put in the butler.

"Oh," said the bachelor, somewhat surprised, "how did you find them?"

"Excellent, sir," replied James.

* * *

THE BRUTE

Strap Hanger (to another, who has just given his seat to a lady): "I've been travelling on this line for three years, and I've never offered my seat to a lady."

"Then, sir, you've never had any manners."

"No, it isn't that: I've never had a seat."

* * *

AWARD

"What should I get," inquired the man who had just insured his property against fire, "if this building should burn down tonight?"

"I should say," replied the insurance agent, "about ten years."

* * *

"With a family like mine the cooking is never done and that is enough to give a woman a pain, isn't it?"

Yes, and also her family.

* * *

SO APT!

A gentleman straphanging in a tram was precipitated by the breaking of the strap into a lady's lap. He apologised, and took another strap. This also broke and he fell into the lady's lap for the second time. She said fiercely: "'Ere, who d'yer think yer are?"

He replied: "Madam, I thought I was an Irishman, but it seems I am a Lap-lander!"

* * *

I should appreciate my husband more if he would go away and send me his wage packet every week.—*Wife at police court.*

He'd get more credit then. He'd have to.

PUNISHED!

He was a Jew, who accompanied by his son aged five, walked into a diamond merchant's establishment not many miles from Hatton Garden. "Vot is the price of this stone?" he asked. He was told; whereupon he asked the price of another and another—and yet another.

Eventually the merchant's assistant became bored and asked him to leave.

"Vy should I leave?" he asked, clutching the counter.

"Why should you leave?" retorted the assistant. "I'll damned soon show you, you—Jew!"

The Jew retreated, and when outside the shop his child addressed him: "Father," he lisped, "vill not your God punish that bad man for callin' you those awful names?"

"He has already punished 'im my son," sighed the Jew as he held two sparkling stones in front of the youngster. "See, 'ere are two of 'is blethed diamonds!"

HOW MANY?

Minister: "What is the baby's name, please?"

Father (proudly): "Robert William Clive Montgomery Morgan Howard."

Minister (to assistant): "More water please."

* * *

"What would you do if you met a man dancing with rage and brandishing a club?"

Direct him to the nearest golf course.

* * *

"Can you think of anything worse than sleeping on a concrete floor?"

Yes, keeping awake on it.

LAST LAUGH

They were a sly pair, the cashier and the waitress. One day, however, they met their match. A man called for his bill and upon receiving it added it up and found that he had been charged a shilling too much.

"How does this come about?" he asked, looking sharply at the waitress.

"Well, you see, sir," she replied, "the cashier bet me half a crown that you wouldn't see it and I bet him you would."

With a smile the customer wrote something on the back of the bill, folded it, and said: "Take that to the cashier."

She did so, and on opening it the two were startled to read: "I'll bet a pound I shall not be here when you get back."

And he wasn't.

Gonds: A Dancing, Singing Tribe

THE Gonds are among the prominent tribes of Maharashtra. Their settlements in the state are confined largely to Chanda district in Vidarbha and Nanded district of Marathwada. The Gonds have even today been a subject of curiosity as they have still remained the culturally explored of the Indian Tribes.

The Tribal belt extending from Bastar in Madhya Pradesh to Talegaon in the South was known as Gondwana in ancient India. But today besides Chanda district the tribals are settled in Mandla and Bastar districts in M. P. Chanda, however, can be described as the most flourishing remnant of the hoary Gondwana empire.

The most striking feature of the Gondwana is its antiquity. Indeed that was one of the oldest inhabited areas in ancient India–older perhaps than the Gangetic plateau of Himalya ranges. Historians have testified that Gondwana constitutes an important area in the geophysical structure of this country. References in Chanda Gazeteer corroborate this observation. Etymologically the expression Gond is derived from 'go' meaning forest and 'und' meaning origin. This proves that the Gonds are the forest-inhabiting tribe. Their forest habitation over a long period appears to have hindered their cultural advancement.

The Gonds have been listed among the Scheduled Tribes. Three distinct traits are evident among the Gonds inhabiting the region today. Language-wise their dialect is predominently influenced by Telugu, Marathi and Hindi depending upon the proximity of a particular region to their habitation.

By and large their language Gondi as well as their life style has remained unchanged over the centuries. Their folk tales also appear to fall into three different categories. The first category relates to the origin of the universe called 'Bheet Khand'. This deals with stories of Gods and Goddesses. The second part deals with mythological stories. Stories from Ramayana and Mahabharata are very common among the Gonds. The third part deals with the origin and expansion of the Gond Society.

The role played by the Gonds in the making of history can not be ignored. Thirteenth century witnessed the emergence of Gond Kingdoms in Vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh area. Gadh Mandala kingdom near Jabalpur, Devgad near Nagpur and kingdom of Chanda have been among the notable ones. Rani Durgavati who put up a brave fight against Akbar the Great was a Rajput queen of the king of Gadh Mandala. The Gonds of Nagpur also fought against Aurangzeb. All the three kingdoms were conquered by Bhonsalas of Nagpur in the 18th century.

The Gond society has no caste distinction nor does the priestly class enjoy a privileged position. Their marriage rituals as well as the procedure for diverce are simple. Widow marriages are not taboo. The Gond women are a hard-working lot and as such enjoy equal status along with the menfolk. They take utmost care to keep their houses clean. Gotul is a custom among the Gonds which is close to courting in the English society. Gotul provides young girls and boys an opportunity to know each other and in most cases the boys and girls choose their life partners from among the members of the Gotul.

Madia, Korku and Raj Gond are the three castes prevailing in the Gond Society. Raj Gonds are a little more advanced than others and live on the outskirts of the urban area. The king is the final arbiter in their disputes. Korkus continue to be nomadic going from place to place throughout the year. Efforts made by the British administration to settle them at some place proved futile. The Gonds are votaries of truth. Their needs being few, they lead a simple life. They are almost fanatical in their notions about morality and would even sacrifice their lives to uphold these notions.

On festive occasions, the Gonds spend the whole day in dancing. The most popular dance of the Gond community is the snake dance. It has hardly any parallel in other tribal dances. The name snake dance has a reference to the serpentine formations that are made during the dance. The dance ends with the dancer at the head of the line trying to 'bite' his counterpart at the tail end. Community dancing is the most popular entertainment among the Gonds. That, in fact, is the one occasion when the young and old alike dressed in their best, turn out in large numbers. The reason for such a fascination for dancing can perhaps be traced to their poverty which prevents them from taking to any other form of entertainment.

Gonds, indeed, are the singing and dancing tribe. The Maharashtra Government has been making utmost efforts to preserve their tribal culture which has contributed to the cultural ethos of India in a big way.

SURPRISE!

A friend of mine in the island of Guernsey one day settled down in a small deserted bay to read, hidden behind a sand dune. Presently two young girls came along and seeing no one, undressed and stretched out to sun-baths. Soon a parson appeared carrying a camera, and believing himself alone, left his clothes on the beach and swam around the neighbouring headland.

Out from behind their sand dune stole the two girls to where the parson's clothes lay, picked up his camera and each snapped a picture of the other. After which they replaced the camera containing these candid portraits and returned to their hiding place.

—Viscountess Rhondda, in Notes on the Way ... ...

GERMAN STUDY OF TROPICAL ANIMALS

GIESSEN (DaD) Once a year, otherwise peaceable Asian bull elephants turn nasty for a period known as musth. Ten feet tall and thirteen feet long, the Indian tuskers are the last remaining representatives of a category of animals dating back to the Tertiary period. They live to the age of 100 and over.

When their unruly time of the year comes these gigantic animals with a surprisingly quiet and sprightly gait turn nasty towards their keepers and attack and occasionally kill them and other humans. They also turn on other elephants and cause substantial damage, tossing tree-trunks around in their rage.

Musth generally lasts two to three weeks and is accompanied by a discharge from glands near the elephants' ears. Scientists are still undecided as to how intimately musth is linked to sexuality. It is one of the phenomena under investigation by the department of tropical veterinary medicine at the University of Giessen, Federal Republic of Germany.

Giessen's Dr Elke Scheurmann has conducted field work in Ceylon in conjunction with a local veterinary scientist, returning with educational footage on these 'rogue' elephants.

"Issues relating to elephant procreation are growing increasingly important", according to Professor Helmut Fischer, head of the department. "In some parts of Asia there is no substitute for the elephant as a beast of burden. In the wild elephants are growing fewer and further between. Replacements cannot simply be caught." Indian elephants have been tamed for ages, a feat that is seldom accomplished with their African cousins.

The Giessen academic staff are in constant contact with veterinary research scientists all over the world. When practitioners run up against problems they are at liberty to refer them to Giessen, where archives and expertise can sometimes provide more extensive information about the fauna of tropical regions than the scientific libraries of the countries concerned.

Many foreign nationals come to Giessen as students or trainees to glean information about animal life in their own countries, but the traffic is a two-way flow, with Giessen specialists travelling all over the world to conduct field work and on-the-spot research.

Professor Fischer, for instance, is shortly bound for Thailand, where he will work as an adviser to the government for a twelve-month period. A consignment of fifty Thai water buffaloes are soon to be shipped to Nigeria. During a stay in Africa Dr Fischer undertook to supervise this continental exchange. His assistant, Dr Joachim Senn, recently returned from a tour in the Republic of Korea, where he studied cattle and silkworm breeding.

Rainer Burgemeister, another Giessen vet, is currently engaged in work on one-humped camels in Gabes, Tunisia, with particular attention being paid to the high death rate of young dromedaries. Mortality, he has discovered, is partly due to inbreeding, endogamy encouraging the spread of congenital diseases.

With the ships of the desert remaining indispensable in the Sahara and environs, camel breeding needs to be paid greater attention, as do diseases involving parasites.

Burgemeister has succeeded in identifying a complaint known as *chameau fou*, or camel sickness, that can be passed on to humans and causes damage to the central nervous system. Blood samples taken from sick camels and sent to Giessen for analysis reveal that the complaint is Lister's disease, which can be cured with relative ease.

—Volker-Joachim Stern

Arms And The Boy

Dean Martin, Jr., 22-year-old student son of the well-known American singer-actor, was recently arrested by the Los Angeles police on charges of illegal possession of arms—seven machine guns and an anti-tank cannon. His attorney explained that he was fond of arms and had been a "collector of unusual firearms" since boyhood.

UNEXPECTED

The Governor of the prison sent for one of the prisoners.

"No. 87, you have been granted a remission of your three years' sentence."

"Lumme, sir," replied the prisoner, "that's awkward. When I came in 'ere I let my house for three years."

Tit-Bits On Men And Matters

By T. NEELAKANTAN
(General Knowledge Agency)

MR. JOSEPH KENNDY'S HUMOROUS REPLY.

President Roosevelt appointed one Mr. Hugo Black as a Judge of the Supreme Court of America. In his younger days, Mr.Black was associated with Ku Klux Klan, an anti-Negro organaisation. So, his appointment as a Judge was publicly discussed. When Mr. Joseph P.Kennedy, father of the late President Kennedy, was having a talk with his friend Mr. Arthur Krock, this appointment came up for discussion. Mr.Krock said he was surprised that Mr. Black should have accepted the post of a Judge in the Supreme Court, without letting President Roosevelt know of his Ku Klux Klan affinity. To this Mr.Joseph Kennedy replied:-"If Marlene Dietrich (a film actress) asked you to make love to her, would you tell her that you were not much good at making love". Mr.Joseph Kennedy perhaps said so, just to convince Mr. Black that generally people would not let go such appointments and opportunities, even though they were aware that they did not deserve them conscientiously.

DRAMA WRITTEN IN TWO DAYS.

Mr.P.Samband Mudaliar, who was an upright Judge was also an able play-wright. Out of the many plays he wrote. "Manohara", "Demon Land", 'Galva', etc., were often put on boards at different places, at different times by different people. Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar's farher saw many of his sons dramas and he was proud of him. When he was seriously ill, in his advanced age, he desired to see another new drama of his son. Mr. Sambanda Mudaliar was a devoted son and he wanted to fulfill his father's desire. So, he wrote the script for a new drama in two days and named it "Yayathi". This hastily written drama in Tamil was so good that he himself translated it in English later on.

GANDHIJI AND HIS "ARJUNAS"

Among the many letters received by Mahatma Gandhi, there used to be some written by children too. They wanted his advice and he took the trouble to reply to them also Once a child wrote to him:-"Bapuji, you always tell us about the Gita. In the Gita, Arjuna asks just one question and Bhagavan Krishna rolls out a whole chapter in reply. But you answer our full-page questions with just a word or a sentence. Is it fair?" Gandhiji, in his reply to that letter said:-"Well, Bhagavan Krishna had only one Arjuna to deal with, while I have a host of Arjunas."

Father Dominic Pyre of Belgium did very good humanitarian service for the refugees in Europe and for the establishment of good relations between different peoples and different nations. In appreciation of his services, the Nobel Prize for Peace was given to him. Out of this prize, he got about Rs. 17 lakhs. He did not want to use this amount for his personal purposes but utilise it for a public cause, especially in the cause of peace. He decided to establish an university for this purpose. He explained his plans to his friends and others and collected donations. With his prize amount and with the donations he collected, Father Dominic Pyre established the University of Peace at Brussels This university trains young men and women from different parts of the world to propagate and work for universal peace.

SIR C. SANKARAN NAIR

When India was under the British rule, many of our eminent men accepted office both at the centre and in the States, just with the intention of doing good to our country. But they did not hesitate to resign their jobs, whenever occasions demanded.

Sir C. Sankaran Nair was a member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, when the struggle for freedom was gaining strength. The Central and the State Governments were using repressive measures to put down the national struggle. The atrocities committed at the Jallianwala Bagh were so inhuman that Sir C. Sankaran Nair resigned the membership of the Viceroy's Executive Council, as a protest. He paid a farewell call on the then Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford. The Viceroy asked him whether he could suggest anyone as his successor. Pointing to his peon standing nearby, Sir Sankaran Nair replied:-"Yes That man there, Ram Prasad." In an excited way, the Viceroy queried "What?" Sir Sankaran Nair answered:-"Why, he is tall, he is handsome and he will say 'yes' to what all you say."

H. G. WELLS ON OBSTACLES IN LIFE

In life, we come across unexpected happy happenings and unimagined obstacles. When we are confronted with difficulties, we are forced to make the utmost use of our abilities to overcome them and incidentally enable others to know our worth. Further, life will be uninteresting, if it is all-successful, all-pleasant and all-smooth. Rightly therefore, Mr. H. G. Wells once said:- "What on earth would a man do with himself, if something did not stand in his way."

Concept Of One World

By K. SUBBA RAO
(PART II)

THE second concept is the universality of religion, which does not mean one universal religion. It means not only tolerance of religious diversity but mutual respect for each other's religion.

This attitude towards religion in the Indian context may be described in popular parlance as "secularism".

Religion is a faith in God or some divine principle governing universe. It is a faith in reality experienced by great prophets and disclosed in scriptures.

A study of the scriptures will indicate that the fundamental principles of all religions are the same or similar and that they differ only in ritualistic garbs in which they are clothed or the practices they follow, having regard to the environmental conditions in which they function.

Briefly stated, all religions believe in God or some universal principle. All religions believe in salvation, which is given such names as heaven, mukti, nirvana etc. They lay down the pathway or sadhana to achieve salvation; prescribe rules of ethical conduct to purify the mind; and place before their votaries high values of life.

RATIONALISE RELIGION

All religions therefore place emphasis on the self-realisation of man through various connected disciplines. But, unfortunately, fanaticism, obscurantism, ignorance and politicalisation of religion are separating the religions and creating conflicts between them.

All religious leaders should realise that their common enemy is atheism. engendered by materialistic philosophy. United they will survive, divided they will succumb.

It is time that religious leaders make a concerted attempt to rationalise their respective religions and maintain a continuous dialogue among themselves to ward off the common danger.

This must be done at various levels, home, school, college, religious conferences and media of public opinion. At all these focal points, a sincere and sustained attempt should be made to inculcate the principles of various religions with an emphasis on the fundamental unity underlying all religions and on the concept of tolerance of religious diversity.

Secularism, in my view really means the spirit of tolerance or cosmopolitanism. It means spiritualism, neither fanaticism, nor atheism. It means that every man has freedom of conscience, personal and corporate. It means not only tolerance of religious diversity but also mutual respect.

This doctrine, if seriously implemented, will not only change the quality of life but will spiritualise material activities. It affords a moral background to man in his pursuit of worldly affairs.

BALANCED RIGHTS

There cannot be one world if several grades of freedom prevail in different parts of the world, ranging from near slavery to absolute freedom.

It is necessary that freedom should be secured to citizens of every state before one could think of one world or one world government.

The expression "freedom" means freedom for every individual to live like a human being. Freedoms are described as human rights. They are not the rights of a rich man but the rights of a man wherever he lives.

It is the right of a man to live, to dream and to develop his personality physically, intellectually and spiritually. As freedom is the right of all people, the concept of equality is implicit in it.

If all people are free, all are equally free. The laws of social control are nothing more than maintaining a balance between the freedoms of people. To put it in other words, they reconcile the two doctrines, liberty and equality.

UNIVERSALITY OF FREEDOM

Universality of freedom, therefore, may be defined as the right of man, irrespective of his race, religion, language, habitation, etc., to life, liberty, equality, property, justice and generally to human happiness.

Jurists categorise these freedoms under various terminologies—political, social and economic; physical, intellectual and spiritual; liberty, equality and security; fundamental rights and directive principles; rights and duties; means and ends; fundamental freedom.

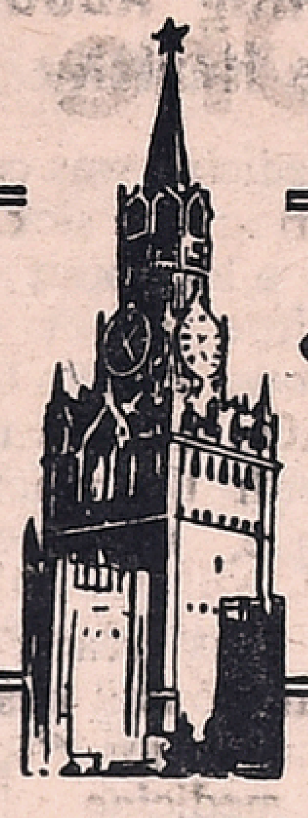
Howsoever they are described, whatever different terminology may have been used, they convey the idea that a man is a unit of value, and not a slave of the state and that the state exists for man and not man for the state.

The realisation of the universal value of this concept is the justification for its incorporation in the United Nations charter, international declaration of human rights, international covenants and in almost all the written constitutions of the world.

IMPLEMENTATION OF FREEDOM

But there are reasons for their non-implementation or ineffective implementation. There is no effective machinery for enforcing these rights. Secondly,

(Contd. on page 8)



Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

INDIAN DELEGATE'S IMPRESSION OF KOMSOMOL CONGRESS...

SHARING his impressions of the 17th Congress of the Young Communist League (Komsomol) which recently concluded in Moscow, Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munshi, President of the All-India Youth Congress said that he was leaving Moscow fully convinced about the leading role the Soviet Union is playing in the struggle for World Peace.

It may be recalled that the 17th YCL Congress Session held from April 23 to 27 was attended by representatives of 135 Youth Organisations from 102 countries including India.

The envoy of the Indian Youth was particularly impressed by the frankness with which the Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev elucidated Soviet policy of peace from the rostrum of the Congress. The Soviet Union, Mr. Munshi said, has been playing a leading role in the struggle for peace. "We saw how great this role was in ending the war in Vietnam, in the support of the Arab peoples and the people of Bangladesh", Mr. Munshi continued. "The Soviet Union has done a lot in preventing a nuclear catastrophe, in strengthening friendship and cooperation between nations, especially with the developing countries".

He pointed out that the strengthening bonds of friendship between the young men and women of the USSR and India, and their joint struggle against manifestations of imperialism are of great significance for the promotion of peace.

* * *

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS...

May Day, the Day of International Solidarity of the working people, was celebrated throughout the Soviet Union with great enthusiasm on the 1st of May.

The highlight of the celebration in Moscow was, of course, the colourful parade in the Red Square, which lasted for two hours. Bringing out the reports of victories in labour, the columns of the working people representing Moscow's districts passed through the square.

Among the numerous foreign guests were the envoys of the socialist countries, representatives of trade union and workers' organisations from nearly one hundred countries and leading champions of peace and friendship among nations. Heads of diplomatic missions were also present.

A stormy applause broke out when Leonid Brezhnev, Nikolai Podgorny, Alexei Kosygin and other Soviet leaders arrived at the central stand of the Lenin Mausoleum

The enthusiasm of the Soviet people who have followed the established tradition of marking the Day of the International Solidarity of the Working People with new gains in production, science and culture, their daring plans and certainly of the future, their cheerful moods—all these were reflected by artists in huge murals and monumental displays in Moscow.

The May Day decorations of the capital lent special emphasis as usual to the international theme.

The placards and posters told about major victories of the foreign policy of the CPSU and Soviet State, advocating with persistence the cause of peace and international security.

A message of greetings addressed to the Soviet people by the CPSU Central Committee, Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government says that the May Day Holiday is an exciting demonstration of the victories of the Soviet people now translating into life the historic decisions of the 24th Congress of the CPSU. "We are calling to all champions of peace and progress on the earth with an appeal to strengthen international solidarity in the struggle against the evil forces of imperialist reaction who are seeking to shatter the relaxation of international tensions and revive the atmosphere of 'cold war' The struggle for durable and just peace on earth, against oppression and exploitation, against the omnipotence of monopolies, social injustice, political reaction, fascism and the menace of war, is a vital cause of all the progressive humanity", the message says.

* * *

RESULTS OF THE UN SPECIAL SESSION...

"The West had to face up a powerful front of representatives of the developing countries, supported with vigour and determination by the delegates of the socialist countries", says the IZVESTIA, summing up the results of the Sixth Special Session of the UN General Assembly.

The paper adds: "In all probability the world capitalism has no intent to reshape the system of trade and economic relations with the third world which has traditionally been in its favour. But it cannot ignore the demands of today either. It is imperialism and those conducting the policies of colonialism and neo-colonialism, who are to be held fully responsible both morally and materially for the fate of the hundreds of millions of people in the third world thrown into a morass of privation."

Referring to the stand taken by China in this respect, the IZVESTIA says, "the prolific verbosity the Maoists pay to the division of the world into poor and rich countries regardless of their socio-economic system rests on no grounds whatsoeve The proponents of such theoric whether they want it or not, sho themselves as apologists o colonialism and neo-colonia lism".

The paper has further pointed out that "facts reveal that million of people in Asia, Africa and Latin America express the feelings of heart-felt gratitude to the Soviet Union and its people for their support and equitable co-operation. The Soviet Union believes in its international duty to render diverse assistance to the developing countries."

* * *

COMPUTER JOINS THE WOMEN'S LIB...

Moscow city council has installed a computer to help allocate new flats, and sort out some of the arguments that must arise when 100,000 families a year move to new homes. The idea is that it will rapidly weigh up everything affecting the needs and composition of families and give a completely unbiased decision. That's something which the hard-worked housing officials may not always be able to do. Offers of housing may be turned down for so many reasons—for instance, if the new home is too far away from either the husband's or wife's place of work; if it's too high for the comfort of the old people; or if it will mean that granny won't be able drop in to see that the children are all right.

"But suppose," I asked Pyotr Tkachenko, head of the Computer Section, "the husband works in one area and his wife in another; in whose favour does the computer decide?"

"The wife's, of course,", he chuckled. "We've programmed it to give preference to women."

May Day Parade in the Red Square Moscow

From page 6

Concept...

there is also an inherent conflict in the human mind itself between power and freedom. Man craves for freedom for himself and seeks to curb it in others.

Thirdly, there is a conflict of ideologies. The democratic states preserve and enforce the classical rights and create conditions for the securing of economic, social and cultural rights to their citizens through democracy and rule of law. The totalitarian countries show lip sympathy to classical rights but seek to enforce economic rights through coercion.

Finally, there is unwillingness on the part of soverign states, both democratic as well as totalitarian, to give up a little of their sovereignty to the international bodies in order to preserve and protect such freedoms.

Because of these and such other reasons, the talk of freedoms has become a platitudinous slogan.

CONCEPT OF FREEDOM

Unless the concept of freedom is effectively implemented one world will continue to be an idle talk and a distant mirage.

Some of the remedies for making the concept of freedom a reality are:

The international law of human rights should be binding on all states;

All classical rights, that is civil and poli ical rights, should be declared positive rights by the law of each state and made enforceable through an impartial judicial machinery.

It should be the duty of each state to evolve economic rights through economic development and rule of law;

The higher judiciary of land should be entrusted with the power to resolve the conflict between various categories of rights and harmonize them:

The process of evolution should be through judicial adjustment;

A regional court or courts and an international court of human rights should be established with jurisdiction over all constituent states; and

A commissioner for human rights should be appointed at the state, regional and international levels.

UNIVERSAL MAN

"Universality of freedom" may be defined as the enforceable international legal right of man, irrespective of race, nationality, religion, language, habitation, etc., to life, liberty, property, equality justice and the pursuit of happiness.

I believe that, by harmonising the three concepts of universality of science, religion and freedom and by implementing them, we can accelerate the pace of the movement toward one world or one world government. It is no doubt a distant vision and its contours are not yet clear.

Still one thing is clear; that the society is moving towards it. Many who occupy the seats of power in various parts of the world should do their best in this regard. But, more importantly, the intelligentsia must create public opinion, national and international, for the development of this concept. The creation of a universal man is the only way to accelerate the pace towards one world.

Study of Indian History In Russia

Mr. Erik Komarov, a leading Soviet Indologist and historian told a press conference at the House of Soviet Culture, Madras, recenty that a number of books on India were being published in the Soviet Union to satisfy the growing desire of the people to know more about this country.

He said that the Institute of Oriental studies, in Moscow was the main centre where Indian History, languages, arts and culture are being studied.

In the pre-Revolutionary Russia, study of Indology was confined to the study of subjects like Indian philosophy, pali language, philology and such other subjects. Regular study of Indian history started only after the Great October Socialist Revolution. Prof. Diakov who passed away recently and Prof. I. Reisner were the pioneers in this field. As a result of their studies, a 4-volume History of India was published in the USSR between the years 1959 and 1970. This history covers from ancient times to the present period. It is being revised and enlarged to bring it up-to-date.

Referring to the other works published in the USSR on India Mr. Komarov said, Dr. Bongard Levin has written a book entitled "India of the Mouryas". Dr. Aliyev is now writing a book on "Indian Village Community Through the Ages", while "City in the Medieaval India" is the title of another book by Dr. Chichirov. There are also books about the contributions of leaders like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Mahatma Gandhi and others to the socio-political thought of India. There is a book on the first Indian revolutionaries who visited the Soviet Union. Books have also been written on "Industries of India", on "Economic growth", and on the "Efficiency of the Public Sector."

Giving his own assessment of contemporary history of India Mr. Komarov said that during the 27 years of independence, India was definitely on the road to progress which has been laid firmly. He expressed the hope that India will play an important role in the promotion of peace, not only in Asia but in the whole world.

Answering questions Mr. Komarov said that the Soviet scholars were interested in studying India as a whole but not in sections.

Mr. Komarov is now touring India under the Indo-Soviet Cultural Exchange programme to collect materials for his new book on "Socio-political Development to India after Independence." He has already visited several universities and discussed with scholars.

Mr. Komarov belongs to the middle generation of Soviet scholars who took up Indian studies in the post-war years and filled a wide gap that existed in the Soviet Union in its understanding of modern India. He is a specialist in Indian history, both modern and contemporary.

Mr. Komarov's devotion to India started with his introduction to the works of Tagore by his father. "These books have played a great role in my life" observes Mr. Komarov.

This led to his study of Bengali and Hindi languages and later he specialised in the History of Bengal. He studied at the Moscow Institute of Oriental studies and later took up study of the economic history of India of the 18th and 19th centuries under the famous Indologist Prof. I. Reisner. His thesis on Agrarian Relations and Land and Taxation Policy of the British in Bengal was well received. Subsequently he has written a number of books on the agrarian subject.

He was also interested in India's liberation struggle. He made valuable contribution to the monograph on "The Modern History of India," an important milestone in the history of Soviet Indology, published in 1961.

In 1969, on the occasion of the Centenary of Mahathma Gandhi, a book entitled "The World Outlook of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi" written by Mr. Komarov and Mr. A. Litman appeared. A similar book on Jawaharlal Nehru's World Outlook by Komarov was issued recently. His latest work is devoted to the study of India in the days of its independence, published on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of India's independence.

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Moronic Entertainment

The Grand Guignol, the celebrated Paris theatre of horrors, has reopened after a break of eleven years. According to "NEWSWEEK," the plays it has revived the Horrible End of Dr. Guillotin," "The Butchers of Whitechapel,,, "The Dance of the Madmen," to name a few—are a "grisly blend of sadism' sex and sick humour." The theatre's manager says he takes pride in offering "the most moronic entertainment in Paris."

Learning About The Healthy

Because medicine was concerned with curing the sick, most doctors knew a lot about disease but very little about healthy people. Now, thanks to space medicine, which has had to concern itself with the reactions of healthy people, the picture is changing.

Perhaps it was greater knowledge of what constitutes health which was the major "spin-off" that space medicine had for clinical practice.

It also established the limits within which man can stand various stresses before damage is sustained.

One of the more sacred canons of established medical practice which came under scrutiny was the "put the patient to bed" doctrine.

One of the major problems which the space doctors faced was the damage inflicted on healthy spacemen by the confinement of movement a fairly close parallel to what happens to a patient confined to bed for a long time.

Now the whole question of methods of treatment which will limit the time a patient is kept in bed is under review by earth-bound medicine.

Medical instrumentation has also been improved by the work done in monitoring the physical condition of space crews.

Many of the small measuring devices used to check the condition of heart, lungs, arteries in space are now used in hospitals—and on sports grounds—to maintain checks on patients.

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Streaking

Adam of course never thought that his attire (or rather the complete absence of such) would one day be an "instrument of political importance." But this is precisely the instrument chosen by some American university and college students who systematically streak nude in city streets and squares. This new form of demonstration, they hold, is better than the old—in clothes. One student leader has been quoted for the following statement: "We feel larger mass demonstrations of streaking in the United States can accomplish much in the political arena." It is planned to streak around the White House. One student body has established an organisation known as the National Collegiate Streaking Association.

———

Kidnap Insurance

A new kind of insurance advertisement has appeared in Detroit newspapers, advising people to insure themselves against kidnapping. The insurance companies expect to do brisk business in as much as kidnappings are becoming increasingly widespread. Whilliam J. Shilson, President of the American Underwriters, says there have been many inquiries about such policies.

Comments By Vishnu

Around The Glamorous World Of Make-believe

"I have taken an absorbing interest in human nature and it has seemed to me that I could best communicate my observations on it by telling tales—" —W. Somerset Maugham.

Film People and Film Journalists

In the majority of our film magazines, what do most of our film journalists write about? Either they flatter particular stars or they fall foul of them they heap scorn and abuse, very often descending to below the belt attacks to besmirch their character and to expose their personal life; and in order to make their wares sell they include gossip and scandal and embellish them with a lot of pictures, of stars in scanty dress, the scantier the better!

How often do you find any intelligent analysis of a particular film or a consideration of the art of film-making? It stands to reason that this should be so for in our country the purpose of a film is mainly to please the film-goers, give them what *they* want and thus make a lot of money in the process. An actor becomes a star purely by the commercial gains made by him for the production and not necessarily by any histrionic capability or merit. The hysterical adulation heaped on film stars by their fans makes them live in a make-believe world of their own; so that even if any journalist wished seriously to make an objective report of what they really feel about the films this is rendered impossible, for it is not easy to meet a top star as another human being or to discuss anything on an intelligent plane. Naturally one is tempted to comment that when there is nothing really to appeal to the intellect, what do you expect to learn from them?

Unfortunately even those few who have something by way of a cultural or educational background have these characteristics eroded rapidly if they remain for any time in contact with their compatriots in the industry.

Very possible my own views may be biased but that is the impression that I have gained; but I am open to correction.

May be these few tales of fiction as Dr. Somerset Maugham, has stated, may reveal certain aspects about the glamorous world of make-believe.

Success Through Decerebration

A class four film actor, was handicapped by the misfortune of possessing a B.A. degree from a local university. Oddly enough this created in him a manner of speech and deportment which was greatly resented by his colleagues in the film industry. (A man who purchased waste paper saw his qualification in true perspective because when the star's mother put out some waste paper for sale, the shrewd fellow took out the degree scroll and remarked that it wasn't worth the paper it was printed upon and that he had no need for it!) It looked as if this poor actor would never rise in his profession let alone keep his present position for he was unpopular and a total misfit.

He therefore consulted a psychiatrist who having studied him carefully told him that his trouble was that he kept thinking and saying intelligent things that no one in his surroundings would relish "You have pinpointed my trouble but what is the remedy?" asked the star who desired to rise in the film field. He was thereupon referred to a brain surgeon who promptly uncovered his skull cap and scooped out his celebral hemispheres. the seat of thought. Now he went about with a vacuous expression and a fixed smile which was not without charm since he had a photogenic face and strong white teeth firmly set in his jaws. Now there was no stopping him in his swift ascent to become the topmost star in the cine world, and it looks as if he may very well be called to Hollywood to act as a guest artiste!

The Physician and the Cine-Star

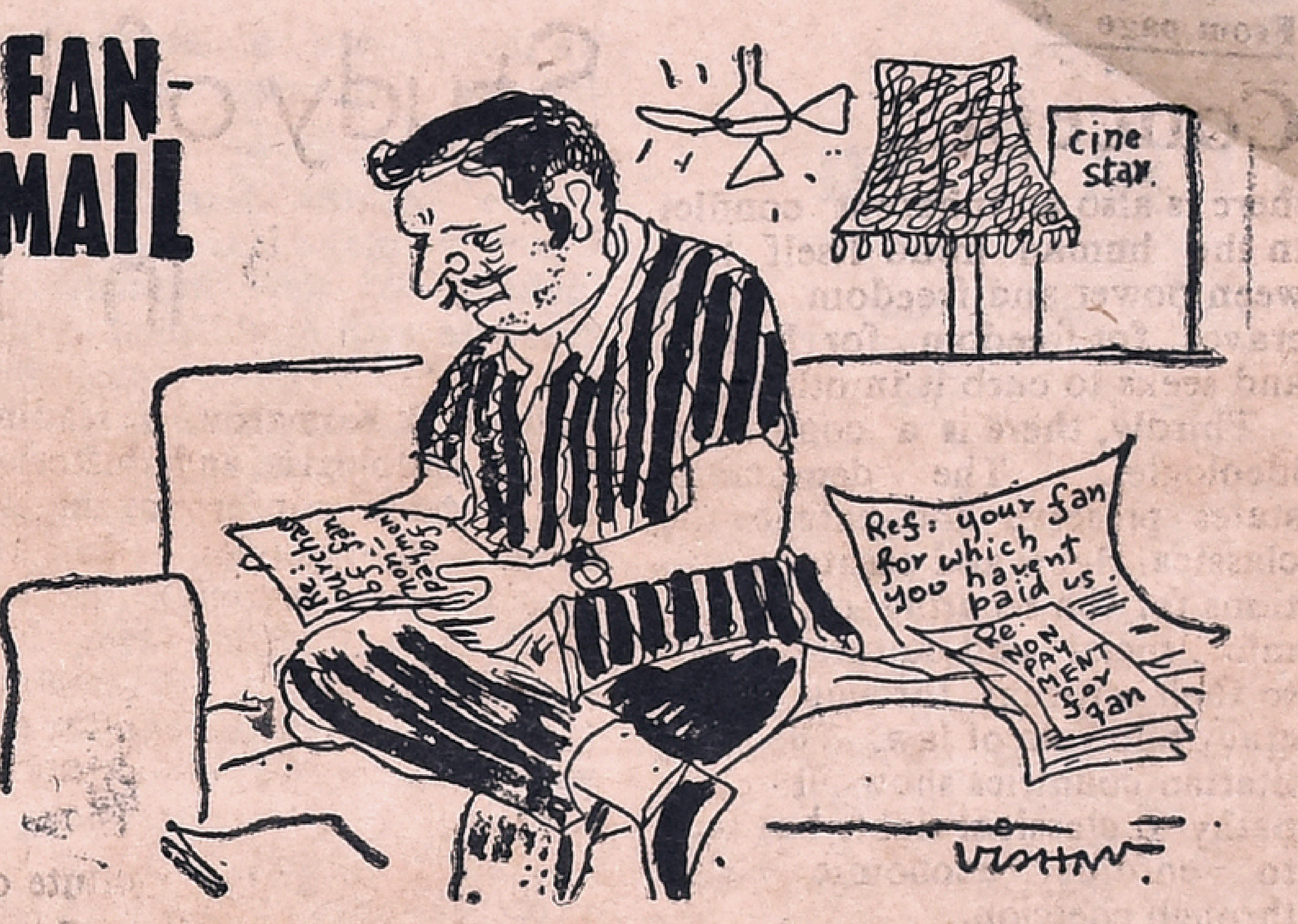
A big film star after gorging himself excessively at a six course banquet to felicitate him developed flatulence and dyspepsia and sent a summons to his personal physician to appear; unfortunately he was at that moment not available. Since his private secretary felt that this was an emergency he went and fetched another physician who practised some way down the same street. This man was completely innocent of the glamorous world of fillims or the ways of the cine-stars and believing it that his services were being indented upon by a fellow human being in distress left his work and came over to the star's residence. Here he resented being kept waiting for half an hour. He was then received in audience by the great cine hero

The bedroom was a large hall with a marble floor and the walls were adorned with countless large sized portraits of the star. The shelves were lined by hundreds of trophies. There was a gigantic cot in the centre of the room on a raised platform and the star was sitting on a velvet coverlet. He wore a Japanese-silk dressing gown. He looked melancholic and seeing the doctor he pointed proudly at his chest and said "Do you know that I have a big heart? Indeed I have the biggest heart that a man ever had and no one has a heart that comes anywhere near the size of what I have." Then he pounded his chest fiercely with both hands like a Gorilla before it absconds with the beautiful woman in the tropical forest as depicted in some comic strips. Then he blurped and belched loudly and gave a loud bellowing laugh.

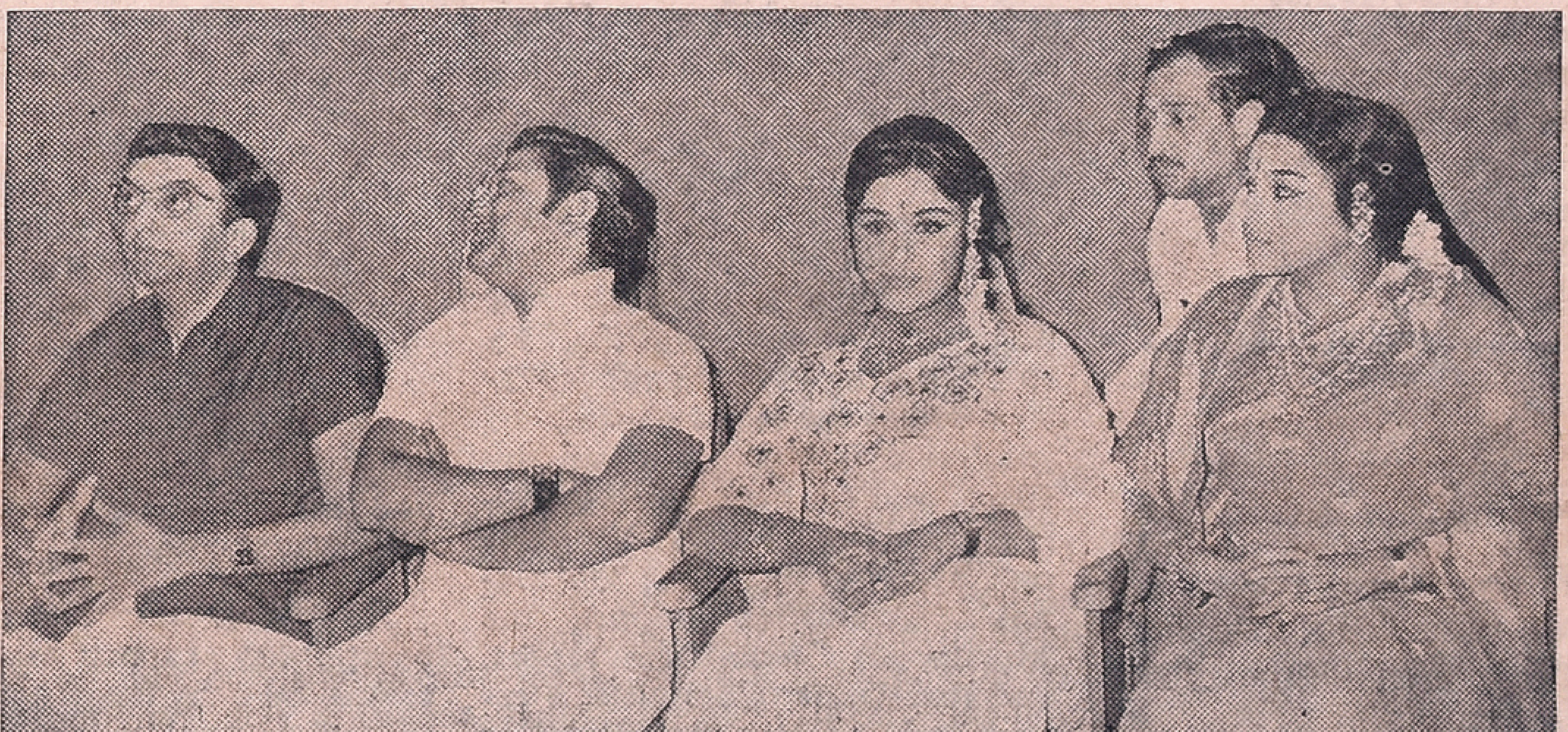
The physician having made a careful examination (including a recording of his blood pressure) was about to write out a prescription for a carminative for his dyspepsia whereupon the great star asked his secretary whether he had made out a cheque to the healer for his services. When the secretary said he had made out a cheque for fifty rupees, the star twitched and became red in the face and in his fury frothed at his mouth. "You demean my status. This man deserves much more. Make out a cheque for five thousand rupees" he roared. These instructions the secretary faithfully carried out forthwith and then presented the freshly made out cheque to him. Suddenly the physician innocent of the world of make believe, recalled the books, that he had read; and making a silent diagnosis of 'general paralysis of the insane, advised that the blood might be examined for a contagious type of chronic affliction.

This was his greatest mistake because if he had been better informed about the film heroes he would have realised that he was dealing with a perfectly normal and healthy hero. From that time onwards he was never called to visit the star again. When he presented the cheque, the bank manager smiled at him tolerantly and the doctor did not wish to reveal his gullibility by pursuing the matter further and so tore up the cheque and forgot about the whole episode. He is a foolish physician who would attend on a film hero without knowing well their character and their idiosyncrasies.

FAN-MAIL



"The only fan mail I've got today is a reminder to pay for the fan......"



'CHO' Ramaswamy, Sivaji Ganesan, Saroja Devi, Vishnu and Padmini.

From page 3

Fifth Plan

utilise underground water. Maximum utilisation of underground water and storage of water spread over a wider area will yield better results than huge irrigation dams. For some times at least, insistence on underground water will set at rest the scramble between different States and will reduce disadvantages of administrative shortcomings. As an illustration, I may cite the mini steel plants that have contributed considerably to augment the supply of steel when the huge steel plants have not yielded results as expected.

A FATAL MISTAKE

We have yet to develop a cadre of managers in our public sector undertakings for promoting administrative efficiency. The administration even now does not realise that if the administration is entrusted with decision-making on economic matters, it cannot play its original role of delaying decisions which administratively may not matter and sometimes may benefit, will have grave consequences on the growth of economy so far as economic spheres are concerned.

One of the fatal mistakes which we make is to ignore the inability of new industries to compete with established industries. Prices rise because new industries manufacturing consumer goods have to pay 3 to 4 times the cost of machinery, have to pay interest charges and have to pass through teething troubles in addition to a long period of gestation. It is possible to evolve a method, consistently with the accepted objectives of absence of concentration of economic power, to utilise the expertise developed by established industries, to cut down gestation period by permitting experienced scientists, engineers and mechanics to provide the know-how, supervise construction and to bring about reduction in cost. Unless this is done the ideal of bringing down prices will continue to elude us. The decision-making machinery must be also geared up. Once decisions are taken by Ministers, the administrative machinery has to implement them rather than process them. Otherwise propaganda will become a substitute for performance.

The vital factor which ought not to be forgotten is that every period of rapid rise in prices has followed a failure of monsoon. Droughts in 1965-66 and 1966-67 pushed up the price level by 37%. In the same way, failure of monsoon in 1971-72 and 1972-73 pushed up prices by 38%. Sufficient safeguards have to be provided against these eventualities which occur once in every 5 years.

UNPRODUCTIVE EXPENDITURE

If inflation and growth go together, stability can be ensured. Government have to remember that the administrative expenditure, which is not productive, has to be controlled. Even expenditure on welfare measures has to be wisely regulated. If the administrative expenditure increases and efficiency goes down, we must remember that a candle which is burning at both ends cannot last long. If a large part of additional taxation goes for financing bureaucratic machinery rather than for financing development projects, it contains its own seed of spiralling inflation.

How disparities between investment and production and returns are widening is demonstrated by the fact that the national income in real terms had risen by not more than 1.5 to 2% during 1971-72 and 1972-73 whereas the index number of wholesale prices went up by 19.8% and over the corresponding period of May 1972 prices rose by about 6%. The Mahalanobis Committee's report, the Monopolies Commission report, and the Datta Committee's report and recently the Scientific Research Foundation on the distribution pattern of income have said that from 1960-61 to 1970-71 disparities in the distribution of income have increased to the benefit of the upper classes. In other words, the main burden of planned development has been borne by the poorer sections of the population. This goes counter to our ideal of social justice.

PSYCHOLOGY OF SHORTAGES

While planning, we have not taken care of the infra-structure. It should have been taken care of so that it could cope with the increased demand of transport and communications. In the same way, development of power and fuel has not kept pace with industrial demand. What is named as a "Parallel economy" or the 'unorganised sector' is the outcome of ineffective control by the Government machinery. When the resources continue to flow towards unorganised sector, that is black money, hoarding and black marketing flourish. This ultimately brings us to the law of demand and supply. In the mixed economy of India, we are getting the worst of both. Sometimes even the working of price mechanism becomes a threat to planning. In fact, the public distribution apparatus, covering not only foodgrains but also some of the more essential commodities, should have been an aid to planned development; but experience over the years has shown that since production has not kept pace with the rising effective demand, the nation has developed a psychology of shortages. The answer is increased production not only in industry but in agriculture. Increased agricultural production provides a stable base for development in a predominantly agricultural country like India.

PRODUCTION STAGNANT

One more factor we have to remember is that there must be judicious distribution of resources on electricity, water, agriculture, Industry and small scale industries. The disappointment of the Fourth Plan is due to the poor performance of the industrial sector, its contribution to the gross national product being only about 50% of what had been assigned to it. An over-all assessment will indicate that not even 75% of the Fourth Plan has been implemented and production trends have been more or less stagnant. In addition, there is a big drop in the expected surpluses of public sector undertakings including Railways by over Rs 800 crores. Funds raised with the obvious intent of financing the Fourth Plan have not been effectively used and the fulfilment of the financial targets had taken place only with heavy deficit financing.

However, the provision of compulsory exports to the extent of 60% by large houses and foreign companies is a wise one, unless the industry is reserved for small scale sector. Another provision about large houses being allowed to enter production of mass consumption goods where there are tangible advantages, is a welcome innovation.

IMPORTED INFLATION

Vigilance is called for on the part of the Government and planners to see that stabilisation of prices is not hampered by imported inflation having regard to import parities of fertilizers, steel, aluminium and many other items being much higher than prices of idential indigenously produced goods. They must remember that the yield of raw cotton, raw jute and sugarcane has been quite satisfactory. The output of oilseeds is estimated to be higher by nearly 25% as compared to 1972-73. But tnere has been no impact of the better yields on prices of raw cotton and oilseeds because of the fantastically high cost of imported varieties of cotton and the demand for oilseeds being considerably in excess of indigenous production and imports.

It is imperative to create additional generating capacity—hydel and thermal—on an emergency basis. Mechanisation of collieries and opening of mines in new areas for rationalising the movement of coal and reducing pressure on railways should receive high priority.

NEW STRATEGY NEEDED

To sum up, the Fifth Plan has not been formulated under propitious circumstances as the developments in the last two years of the Fourth Plan have upset all calculations. The opportunity for providing the necessary correctives to earlier policies which resulted in reduced industrial production should not be missed. The required additional export surpluses can be created only if the output of agricultural commodities and manufactured goods is significantly raised in a short period. Availability of financial resources alone cannot ensure the success of the new Plan. A new strategy is urgently called for.

I have not purposely given details of hyper inflation during the last few years as I firmly believe that if production keeps pace with additional money pumped into economy and if the demand for essential commodities and raw materials is sufficiently matched by increased supplies on account of increased productivity and if delays are avoided by increasing administrative efficiency and resources are generated by saving and capital formation. Additonal pumping of money will accelerate growth of economy, provide ample employment opportunities, raise standard of living and maintain prices at reasonable level.

(From a speech at the Seminar on "Inflation & Fifth Five Year Plan" under the auspices of the Young Writers' Forum.)

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"Kaadu": Real Village Story

People who appreciated "Dhagam" in Tamil will certainly welcome the "Kaadu" (forest) in Kannada directed by Girish Karnad.

Entirely different from the ordinary rut of Indian films, "Kaadu" gives us an intimate picture of a typical village in South India. "Basically it is a study of a traditional well-knit society, facing the problems of its own strength and weaknesses."

"The story of "Kaadu" essentially begins with the "Nyaya" the meeting of the village court—conducted according to principles which every village holds sacred. It is held in the open and every house must send atleast one representative to it, for what concerns even one individual in the village concerns the entire community. But no outsider may attend the hearings, for that would be questioning the autonomy of the village and the impartiality of the judges.

Trouble begins when Shivaganga, who is not a resident of village dares to attend the hearings. By this simple gesture of defiance he sets off a chain of events which ends in a violent confrontation between the two villages. At the end the "civilized world" breaks rudely in and takes away from the villages even their right to conduct "Nyaya", while the villagers go into a frightened retreat, barring their doors against the terrors of the unknown future.

"In this world, fighting for what it values most and destroying that everything in the process, live Kamali and Kitti, concerned with their own little problems and unaware of the forces raging around them, the two nevertheless become victims of those forces.

Kamali, who had no place in the public life of her village, yet suddenly provides in her death a focal point for its self destructive energies. For Kitti the village and the jungle become one. The quiet village transforms itself into a jungle overrun by wild, bes ial adults, while his beloved jungle reveals itself as a deathly trap created for the unwary by the "Alu Koogina Hakki"—a bird with a human voice which sweetly calls out your name. If you answer its call, you vomit blood and die.

Master G. S. Nataraj as Kitti, and sweet Nandini as Kamali and Avanash Puri as Chandra Gowda have done wonderfully well ably supported by Kalpana Sirur (Kalyani), Baby Sudha Belwadi (Nagi) Lokesh (Sivaganga) and Uma Shivakumar (Basakka) and Dr. V. M. Chitgopi (Dodda Gowda).

Other attractions include the mild music by B. V. Karanth pleasantly recorded by A Govindaswami. Producer G. N. Lakshmipathi and K. N. Narayan deserve all congratulations for this bold venture.

Will Man Visit Mars?

By COSMONAUT NIKOLAI RUKAVISHNIKOV

MANY important problems of interplanetary flight have been already solved. Automatic unmanned craft, such as the Venus, Mars and Mariner probes, have contributed to the development of flight in transfer orbits from the Earth to Venus and Mars. They have also served to test design concepts of spacecraft intended for prolonged flight and radio communications over very great distances.

Soviet and American unmanned craft have carried out direct measurements of the climate and atmo phere of Mars and have taken photographs of the planet's surface. It has been found that the conditions on Mars are rigerous: the atmosphere is extremely rarefied, cold and is almost devoid of oxygen and water. The surface is pitted with craters resembling those on the Moon and covered with reddish-brown sand. The Sun shining in the sky of Mars is small and gives very little warmth.

However these conditions do not pose any serious obstacles to an expedition. Special space suits are capable of supporting the vital activities and capabilities of man in ever more rigorous conditions in outer space or on the Moon.

Another problem of great importance, that of recovery of a spacecraft re-entering the Earth's atmosphere at escape speed, has also bee solved. The speed of a spacecraft returning from Mars will be close to that of a return flight from the Moon.

However, in astronautics, just as in any other sciences, solution of one problem immediately gives rise to a host of other problems which are even more complex. An expedition to Mars must give mankind invaluable scientific information and, possibly, will give a new idea of the surrounding world.

If we give play to our imagination, we many ask whether Mars has always been the dead planet pictured by the cemeras. It is possible that we shall find there new extra-terrestrial forms of life or the results of their past activities?

Can it be that Mars has long completed the cycle of its development, turned cold and lost a part of its atmoshpere? Is it possible that tens or hundreds of million years ago there were oceans turbulent rivers, valleys and mountains covered with strange forests, or buildings and towers of unknown towns?

EXTREMELY LONG DURATION

Most of the problems which have to be solved before a manned mission to Mars are connected with the extremely long duration of the flight. The distances between the Earth and Mars varies within a wide range: from approximately 40 million to 240 million miles.

One may select orbits which will guarantee minimum flight duration, minimum fuel consumption by the spacecraft power plant, the possibility of laun hing at a predetermined time or any other condition

For a mission to Mars, however, launching on the most economical orbit is possible only during a few days once every two to 2-1/2 years. The flight to Mars will then take 259 days, and the return flight just as long. On Mars, the crew will have to wait 450 days for the planets to assume the relative positions when make a return flight along similar orbits possible.

This means that, with the minimum launching weight, the expedition will last 968 days—over 2-1/2 years.

With certain position of the planets it is sometimes possible to reduce the duration of the mission and, at the same time, to preserve flight paths close to the minimum. One of these possibilities could be realised in 1981.

The launching from the Earth would have to take place on December 28 and the spacecraft would enter a circular Martian orbit 220 days later, on August 4, 1962. The crew would have 20 days to land on the planet in a recovery module and, having fulfilled their mission to return to the spacecraft Then, on August 24, the return flight would commance. On March 29, 1983, the spacecraft would land on the Earth, after an expedition of 456 days.

MULTITUDE OF PROBLEMS

Such a mission is much shorter and yet its duration is very long. This poses tremendous difficulties and a multitude of problems which have not yet been solved. The crew would need a tremendous quantity of food, water and oxygen. Moreover, these supplies must last them for 18 months. Scientists are seeking means of providing a spacecraft environmedt of a closed ecological cycle, in which all the products of man's vital activities will be made fit for repeated use with the help of special installations.

It is also necessary to develop new control systems, automatic and remote control equipment. So far none of the existing systems are capable of functioning faultlessly for so long.

Therefore structures of much higher reliability will be required or else it will be necessary to provide the spacecraft with workshops and include highly skilled repairmen in its crew.

There are also serious medical and psychological problems. These, for instance, include the problem of creating artificial gravity Other complicated problems include, for instance, that of launching the Martian

(Contd. on page 12)

Royal Commission On British Press

By GARY HICKS

A wide-ranging inquiry into the British newspaper and periodical industry is to be carried out by a Royal Commission which will submit recommendations to the Government.

Announcing the setting up of the Commission to the House of Commons yesterday, the Prime Minister, Mr Harold Wilson, said its terms of reference would be: "to inquire into the factors affecting the maintenance of the independence, diversity and editorial standards of newspapers and periodicals, and the public's freedom of choice of newspapers and periodicals, nationally, regionally and locally".

Outlining the background to the appointment of the Commission, Mr. Wilson recalled that Members of Parliament had been suggesting such an inquiry since the opening of the present Parliament on March 21. He said: "Then and later the House expressed its anxiety about the closure of the Scottish *Daily Express*, with the loss of nearly 2,000 jobs, and this was the subject of further questions in the context of suggestions for setting up a Royal Commission.

"Following that and other questions about an inquiry into the Press. I have decided to recommend to the Queen the appointment of a Royal Commission on the Press. The Queen has approved this recommendation."

In particular, the Commission has been asked to investigate the economics of newspaper and periodical publishing and distribution in Britain, conditions and security of employment in these industries, and management and labour practices and relations.

PRESS COUNCIL

In addition, the inquiry will cover the interaction of the newspaper and periodical interests held by the companies concerned with their other interests and holdings within and outside the communications industry, and also the distribution and concentration of ownership in the Pre[illegible] and the adequacy of exist[illegible] law.

The Commission will fu[illegible] have reference to the respo[illegible] bilities, constitution and fun[illegible] tioning of the Pr ss Council whic[illegible] was set up in 1953, with the aim of maintaining the character of the British Press in accordance with the highest professional and commercial standards.

The Commission, which will be under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Finer, a High Court judge, will be free to submit interim reports and recommendations before making its final report if it considers that there are matters concerning the industry which ought to be dealt with urgently.

From page 1

No Justification...

lowest basic wage from Rs. 185 to Rs. 196 as a result of discussions between Goverument and the Joint Consultative Machinery which has a big complement of railway representation. Further, the rising cost of living has been neutralised by the grant of four instalments of dearness allowance since the Introduction of the new pay scales. In addition, the Ministry of Railway has in recent months agreed to several requests for upgradation of supervisors' posts in different departments, with consequential benefits to the rank and file. Then sizeable financial gains have been conferred by the negotiations during the second fortnight of April between the Ministry and the National Coordination Committee of Railwaymen All these add up to Rs. 190 crores and have placed an average railwayman in a position of considerable advantage financially as compared to the common man.

The setting up of fair price shops for sale of foodgrains in railway colonies inhabited by more than 300 employees will mitigate the hardships experienced by railwaymen in big towns, on account of scarcity, but the demand for subsidised foodgrains remains. Some years ago, the railways used to run departmental grainshops at which foodgrains were given to railway employees at concessional rates, but there were many cases of the misuse of this facility, particularly false declarations in regard to the number of members in a family. In agreement with the recognised unions, the element of concession was incorporated in dearness pay and the shops were eventually abolished. The railway administration has been naturally wary of repeating the experiment with its attendant ills and the danger of foodgrain subsidy being used as a lever for a hike in dearness allowance. As regards adequate supply of foodgrains, and the minimum demanded is 450 grammes per head per day, the National Coordination Committee's stand amounts to granting railwaymen priveleged treatment which is not likely to make them popular with the average citizen.

The National Coordination Committee attach a great deal of importance to job evaluation with need-based minimum wage. The latter cannot be fixed for railwaymen alone. Government will have to appoint a commission to go into this. As to job evaluation, the Railway Ministry has agreed to set up a committee for re-classification and establishing relativity of different jobs on the railways, but have agreed to do so within the framework of the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission. It has also agreed to appoint a bilateral committee, on which workers will be represented, to consider anamolies arising out of the Commission's recommendations. The National Coordination Committee's stand that job evaluation without regradation of workmen is meaningless is not reasonable as regradation, in the logical order of things, must follow evaluation. The appointment of these committees affords the National Coordination Committee an opportunity to present the railway workers' case forcefully and see what further advantage can be wrested for them.

The demands of the National Coordination Committee which have not been accepted at all relate to bonus and parity in pay with employees in public sector undertakings. The implications of regarding railwaymen as industrial workers are far-reaching and unless Government can find basis for treating railwaymen as a class separate from the employees of other ministries, it is not in a position to consider the demand for bonus and parity without raising a hornests nest but this is precisely what Mr. Fernandes wants to do. Here it is important to remember that a vast majority of railwaymen work in small wayside places and it is only a minority that is concentrated in industrial complexes. In view of these special circumstances, nothing will be lost if the negotiating unions fall in line with the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen who have agreed to await the report of the Bonus Review Committee

All in all, if passion and prestige are put aside, the positive gains to railwaymen from the recent negotiations have been substantial and these should be weighed carefully against the issues which are still outstanding. So while there may have been some ground for the unions to issue their strike notices on April 23, there is no justification for them now to go on strike from May 8.

WHY ?

You say your mother-in-law threw a chair at you?" said the magistrate

"Yes sir"

"And then your wife threw a table at you?"

"Yes, sir."

"And what made you leave the house?"

"I saw my daughter looking thoughtfully at the sideboard."

From page 11

spacecraft into orbit. According to estimates, such a vehicle, in a circumterrestrial orbit, would have a weight of several hundred tons.

So far, we do not have at our disposal launching vehicles of adequate power capacity, and the techniques of assembling large modules in orbit have not yet been developed. So, despite the great achievements made in astronautics, there are still a great many important problems which must be solved before a mission to Mars becomes reality.

Dental Disease

By Dr. C. S. RAMAN
President, All-India Dental Association

Ninty percent of our population all over India are suffering from Dental Diseases: most common amongst them are (1) Periodental Disease or pyorrhea (2) and Dental Caries.

The general causes of Dental Diseases are (1) Unhygenic condition of the Mouth (2) Improper Mastication (3) Mouth Breathing as a result of Tonsils. Adenoids, Nasal Polypus and deflected septum of the Nose (4) Too much intake of carbohydrates i.e. sweets (5) Calcium and Vitamin C Deficiency (6) Bacterial Infection.

Periodental Disease or Pyorrhea is a very common disease more often found in the Middle aged and elderly group of people. The most early and dangerous sign of this disease is "Bleeding from gums" followed by hypertropy or thickening of the gums, excessive salivation and drops of pus oozing out of gum pockets on digital pressure fowl smell and then the teeth gradually becoming loose; one after another till all of them are out.

Dental Caries: A slow degenerative disease destroying the Enamel, the outer layer, and the inner structures of the teeth. It starts with the Enamel loosing its luster; followed by Black pigmentation of a pin's head size more often found in the centre of the Crowns of the teeth, especially grinders. As the cavity gradually becomes deeper, the nerve gets exposed to Thermal Changes i.e. Heat and Cold and the patient complains of pain whenever he takes hot or cold water. This disease is very prevelant amongst Children.

Dental Diseases with their high incidence should be considered as Major Health Problem in our country: In as much as they give rise to various Constitutional disorders in human body.

A good and strong set of teeth is not only essential for Health, but also for beauty as a smile adorned with a fine set of teeth really enhances one's personality.

A great deal of Dental diseases is due to ignorance in the habit of cleaning the teeth properly and attending to Minor complains in time. The foundation of good teeth have to be laid in Mother's womb. The diet of expectant and nursing mothers, well balanced and nutritious, the care of children's teeth by way of "Dental Check ups" in schools and colleges, Mastication of food properly, Massaging the gums with the tip of the finger, cleaning the teeth twice daily morning and night, rinsing the mouth after every meal, less intake of sweets are some of the golden rules to be observed; for preservation of strong teeth and gums and thereby leading to more healthier and longer life.

Cancer risk depends mainly on age

WEST Berlin (DaD): Cancer is the cause of an increasing number of fatalities in the Federal Republic of Germany. On this point the statistics are conclusive. Despite headline-hitting medical successes, costly radiation treatment and prompt and far-reaching operations the dread disease is spreading at an alarming rate.

This makes all the more surprising the result of a survey conducted by three West Berlin specialists, Professor Heinz Oeser, a tumour specialist of international repute, and his colleagues Koppe and Rach of the Free University. These three men conclude that both in the present Federal Republic and in Western industrialised countries in general there has been no marked change in the frequency of cancer per age group since the turn of the century.

In 1900 the incidence of cancer among fifty-year-olds was no different from what it is today or what it was in, say, 1935. The proportion has remained similar as regards thirty- and eighty-year-olds too. The actual number has increased, but then so has the overall population. Indirectly, moreover, the successes achieved in other sectors of medicine have served to boost the number of cancer cases.

At the turn of the century life expectancy for both sexes was thirty years or so. It is now seventy. The older you are, the greater the incidence of cancer. The greater the number of people who survive to a ripe old age, the more there will be who are likely to suffer from terminal cancer.

These findings do not make nonsense of the undeniable fact that more cancer sufferers are hospitalised than ever before. They even allow of further conclusions. There has been little variation in the overall incidence of cancer despite the increasing burden of cancerogenous substances on the environment and despite pointers to the frequency of lung or breast cancer.

Professor Oeser is of the opinion that the cancer risk has merely shifted from one organ to another. The possibility of a tumour is a constant in the human make-up, as it were. Whether or not cancer actually occurs is largely a matter of age.

—Peter Kirchhoff

Timofei Oleynikov and his wife Alexandra.

THE PENSIONER

In the Soviet Union there are 42 million pensioners. Women over the age of 55 years and Men over the age of 60 years have the right to retire with a pension. In some branches of industry they can retire even at 50.

But how does a person feel when he leaves his ordinary job? Does he feel lonely? Timofei Oleinikov who worked at the Ural Machine Plant (Uralmash) in Sverdlovsk for 30 years, answers these questions. "The state gave me the opportunity to retire at 50. In the Soviet Union blacksmiths, steel-workers, train drivers and representatives of certain other "difficult" professions have the right to retire ten years earlier than other people. But I could not make up my mind whether to leave work or not. Of course, the work of a blacksmith is not easy. In spite of the fact that the heaviest work is done by machines, powerful hammers, manipulaters and holding devices, one has to put in a lot of physical effort in ope-

(Contd on last cover)

Timofei Oleynikov readily shares his rich experience and knowledge with the younger generation of workers.

Oleynikov's advice is highly valued.

All of them belong to the big family of the Oleynikovs

From Third cover

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rating these machines. In short, as the years went by I began to feel exhausted, something which had not happened to me previously. I began to suffer from occasional illness. It was just the moment to leave, so to speak, for a well-earned rest. That is one side of the coin, but what about the other......

"Well, how shall I begin? When you stand by the mighty blacksmith's hammer and you see how a huge red hot piece of pig iron submits to your will and how part of a new machine comes into being before your very eyes...... When you are aware and sure that people need the products of your labour... When you have lived with a feeling like that for 30 years, it is difficult, almost impossible, to imagine that tomorrow you will not have it any more.

"......They arranged a party in my honour at the plant's House of Culture. So many people came! I was greeted with warm words of appreciation and sincere good wishes for the days to come. There were flowers, valuable presents, a concert and a banquet. But again the background of all these festivities the downcast look of my pupils made a particular impression on me.

"......The next morning I got early as usual, as if I were going to work on the first shift. I went out into the street and made my way to my workshop. Since then I have often been to the workshop. I help the young ones to master our splendid "fiery profession" and I can always give the experienced blacksmith's good advice.

"I took up my permanent job again in the smiths' shop after my retirement and have been doing it for ten years now. Like all pensioners in the USSR I received full pension and a wage as well.

"I went back to work not so much for financial reasons as because I wanted to do what I liked doing most.

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